

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01547 071114Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W
-----126328 071328Z /46

R 070847Z SEP 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4955
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1547

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IZ
SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF IRAQI RCC

1. BY DECREE OF SEPTEMBER 4, THE IRAQI REVOLUTIONARY
COMMAND COUNCIL (RCC) EXPANDED ITS MEMBERSHIP FROM
FIVE TO TWENTY-TWO BY BRINGING IN ALL FULL MEMBERS
OF THE BAATH PARTY REGIONAL COMMAND (BPRC). CONCURRENTLY,
THOSE MEMBERS OF THE BPRC WHO WERE MINISTERS OF STATE
WITHOUT PORTFOLIOS GAVE UP THEIR CABINET POSITIONS.
BY AIRGRAM TO DEPARTMENT USINT WILL PROVIDE UPDATED
LISTS OF THE RCC, BPRC, AND CABINET.

2. COMMENT: THE CHANGE MAKES GOOD SENSE SINCE THE
SHRUNKEN RCC -- WHICH NOMINALLY WEILDS SUPREME EXECUTIVE,
LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL POWER -- HAD LONG SINCE BEEN
SUPERCEDED BY THE BPRC AS THE MOST POWERFUL DECISION-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01547 071114Z

MAKING BODY IN IRAQ. THE RCC NOW REFLECTS MORE CLEARLY
WHERE POWER LIES IN THE IRAQI REGIME. THE IRAQI
PARTY LEADERSHIP IS THE CONSTITUENCY WHICH PRESIDENT
BAKR, SADDAM HUSSEIN AND THEIR CLOSE COLLABORATERS
ARE MOST LIKELY TO CONSULT, IF THEY CONSULT ANYBODY.
SADDAM HUSSEIN MUST AT LEAST BE CONSCIOUS OF THE VIEWS
OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP, TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF

PRESIDENT BAKR, AS HE EXERCISES THE DAY TO DAY LEADERSHIP OF THE IRAQI STATE. THE AGING AND AILING SAADOUN GHADAN IS NOW THE ONLY NON-BAATHI MEMBER OF THE RCC, AND THE CABINET IS MORE CLEARLY THAN EVER A SUBORDINATE EXECUTIVE BODY.

3. THE WINNER, IN TERMS OF PREPARATION FOR THE POST-BAKR ERA, IS CLEARLY SADDAM HUSSEIN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE RCC AND DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE BPRC. A SOLID MAJORITY OF THE NEW RCC MEMBERS ARE HIS PROTEGES OR MEN WHO IS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER OWE THEIR ADVANCEMENT THROUGH THE PARTY RANKS TO HIS INFLUENCE. "THE DEPUTY" NOW HAS THE VOTES TO DILUTE ANY APPPOSITION TO HIS POLICIES FROM WITHIN THE RCC. HUSSEIN HAS ALSO SUCCEEDED IN SHELIVING DEMANDS FOR RCC SEATS WHICH HAVE BEEN, AT VARIOUS TIMES IN THE PAST, ADVANCED BY THREE DIFFERENT GROUPS -- SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS, THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ORAQ AND THE KURDISH PARTIES. THE LEADERSHIP APPEARS CONFIDENT OF ITS ABILITY TO CONTROL THE MILITARY WITHOUT SHARING POLITICAL POWER. KURDISH SUPPORTERS OF THE REGIME HAVE VARIOUS SINECURES, SUCH AS THE VIE-PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC, A FEW MEANINGFUL CABINET POSITIONS AND THEIR AS YET AMBIGUOUS AUTHORITY IN THE AUTONOMOUS AREA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 01547 071114Z

4. THE LOCAL COMMUNISTS ARE THE REAL LOSERS, AND THE TIMING FOR THIS MOVE MAY REFLECT CURRENT DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN BAGHDAD AND MOSCOW OVER POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE HORN OF AFRICA. THE ONLY COMMUNIST STILL IN KEY POSITION IS IRRIGATION MINISTER MUKARRAM JAMAL, WHO IS ALSO A KURD. ASIDE FROM JAMAL AND ONE NEARLY INACTIVE MINISTER OF STATE, THE COMMUNISTS MUST TAKE SOLACE IN THEIR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE KURDISH PARTIES IN THE POPULAR AND PROGRESSIVE PATRIOTIC FRONT (PPPF). INCREASINGLY, THE REGIME USES THE PPPF AS A CHEERING SECTION TO PROVIDE A SHOW OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR OFFICIAL POLICIES. DESPITE A NOMINAL NETWORK OF PPPF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS, THERE IS NO SIGN THAT IS SERVES A REPRESENTATIONAL FUNCTION FOR ITS NON-BAATHI MEMBERS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, TARIQ AL-SHA'AB, THE LOCAL COMMUNIST DAILY, AND AL-IRAQ, THE LEFTIST KURDISH PAPER, HAVE KEPT EDITORIAL SILENCE WHILE OTHER DAILIES HERALDED THE EXPANSION OF THE RCC. MACK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY ALLIANCE, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BAGHDA01547
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770323-0477
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770988/aaaacwqc.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cd81aa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1354952
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPANSION OF IRAQI RCC
TAGS: PINT, IZ, RCC, BPRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cd81aa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009